PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

OF MISSISSIPPI,

AT ITS

NINTH GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION IN JACKSON,

JANUARY, A. D. 1855, A. I. 2385.

PROCEEDINGS.

At the Ninth Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Mississippi, held in the Representatives' Hall, at the City of Jackson, on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th days of January, A. D. 1855, A. I. 2385, there were

PRESENT:

M. E. William S. Patton, Grand High Priest.

E. Burton Yandell, Deputy Grand High Priest.

E. James A. Chapman, Grand King, pro tem.

Companion L. V. DIXON, Grand Treasurer.

Companion RICHMOND M'INNIS, Grand Secretary.

Companion WILLIAM H. McCurdy, Grand Chaplain.

Companion Walker Brooke, Grand Marshal, protem.

Companion RICHARD S. ROOME, Grand Principal Sojourner.

Companion J. S. Lewis, Grand Royal Arch Captain, pro tem.

Companion E. B. HARVEY, Grand Master 3d V., pro tem.

Companion B. N. Alexander, Grand Master 2d V., protem.

Companion WM. R. CANNON, Grand Master 1st V., pro tem.

Companion Charles Kopperl, Grand C. of the Host, pro tem.

Companion A. D. Evans, Grand Janitor.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form. Prayer by Rev. Companion William H. McCurdy, Grand Chaplain.

On motion of Companion Kop, erl, the reading of the Minutes was dispensed with.

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed Companions William R. Cannon, Wm. Carey Grane, D. Rosser, C. Kopperl and T. J. Carleton, a Committee on Credentials, when the Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until 7 o'clock, P. M.

Monday, Jan. 8, A. I. 2385-7 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

Prayer by Rev. Companion William H. McCurdy.

The Committee on Credentials made the following Report, to wit:

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report, that they have examined such returns as have been presented, and find the following Companions entitled to seats in this M. E. Grand Body, to wit:

Natchez Chapter, No. 1.—A. H. Kendrick, E. Craig, James Hardie.

Clinton, No. 2.—J. A. Gage, J. B. Coleman, J. O. Ingraham.

Columbus, No. 4.—Charles H. Abert, A. W. Lampkin, Wm. R. Cannon.

Jackson, No. 6.—Wm. S. Patton, R. M. Hobson, H. Hilzheim.

Yazoo, No. 8.—J. W. Barnett, P. Lander, H. Harrison, B. Yandell, proxy. Lexington, No. 9.—Ira S. Mitchell, W. A. Purdom, J. C. Birkhead. DeWitt Clinton, No. 12.—Thos. Hardiman, Dan'l Rosser, Jas. Simms. Euphemia, No. 13.—J. N. Walton, W. B. Barton, B. G. Norwood. Carrollton, No. 15.—Wm. Cothran, W. W. Hart, B. Holt. Wm. H. Wilkinson, No. 16.-L. K. Barber, Fred. Conrad, J. M. Miller. Gallatin, No. 17.—Stephen A. Johnson, George Ray, John Fatheree. Vernon, No. 19.--J. J. Scott, B. T. E. Mabry, W. J. Ferguson. Kosciusko, No. 20.—D. S. Comfort, C. B. Galloway, T. L. Thompson. Quitman, No. 21.-W. C. Crane, J. R. Milam, J. Woodard. Raymond, No. 22.—J. C. Davis, B. D. Chapman, W. F. Dillon. Houston, No. 23-J. A. Orr, R. G. Steele, M. S. Womack. Wayne, No. 24.--J. H. Horne, C. D. Lang, W. W. Lang. Marion, No. 25.--J. R. McLauren, W. P. Andrews, D. C. Smith. Paulding, No. 26.—J. A. Chapman, T. W. Grayson, R. P. Jones. Walker, No. 28.-- E. F. McGehee, W. N. Phillips, G. R. Hunt. Washington, No 29.—Sam. McClellan, V. H. Johnson, Raleigh Folkes. Shongalo, No. 30.— Charles Kopperl, A. Green, Josiah Newman. Decatur, No. 31.—M. M. Keith, Hamilton Cooper, Wm. H. McCurdy. Lafayette, No. 33.—J. M. Howry, W. S. Burney, T. Conkey. Neshoba, No. 34.—J. P. Lewis, R. B. Kirkland, John G. Lewis. Charles Scott, No. 35,-W. H. McCargo, J. W. Stamps, T. H. Wood. Marshall, No. 40.—J. G. Griffin, J. M. Regers, T. R. Baneks. Spring Ridge, No. 41.—H. J. Holmes, G. E. Toole, W. J. Braey. Enterprise, No. 45.-J. M. Hand, W. P. Carter, James E. Watts. Camargo, No. 47.—Hiram Hood, W. S. Leake, B. S. Trice. Ripley, No. 48.—J. E. Rogers, W. D. Carter, S. C. Rutherford. New Albany, No. 49.—C. T. Bond, A. Sutherland, J. F. Graham. Mt. Carmel, No. 50.—Wm. Barnes, S. H. Walker, H. W. Griffith. Geo. Washington, No. 51.—B. N. Alexander, C. S. Bowen, R. Dean. Bay St. Louis, No. 54.—O. M. Oliver, J. C. Monette, W. A. Champlin. Bethesda, No. 55.—Jas. T. Williams, H. D. Palmer, J. P. Cook. F. C. Mercer, proxy for Scribe, Lexington Chapter, No. 9. S. Evans, Representative, Marion, No. 25. S. B. Stamps, proxy for H. P. Charles Scott, No. 35. E. E. Hand, proxy for H. P. Enterprise, No. 45. E. B. Harvey, proxy for H. Priest Mt. Carmel, No. 50. D. J. Brown, proxy for H. P. Raymond, No. 22. R. W. T. Daniel, proxy for Scribe, Vicksburg. No. 3. John C. Warren, Representative, North Mt. Pleasant, No. 40. W. R. Lackey, proxy for H. P., Washington, No. 29. R. P. Jones, proxy for H. P., Decatur, No. 31. All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. R. CANNON, W. CAREY CRANE, D. ROSSER, CHAS. KOPPERL, T. J. CARLETON, Committee.

Past Grand Officers:

WALKER BROOKE, Past Grand High Priest.
CHARLES SCOTT, Past Grand High Priest.
CHARLES KOPPERL, Past Deputy Grand High Priest.
WILLIAM P. MELLEN, Past Deputy Grand High Priest.
WILLIAM R. LACKEY, Past Grand King.

Companion Kopperl offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Companion Robbins, Past High Priest of New Albany Chapter, No. 49, be recognized as the Representative of said Chapter.

On motion of Companion Brown, Companion Yandell was received as the Representative of Yazoo Chapter, No. 8.

The M. E. Grand High Priest then delivered the following Address, which, on motion of Companion Carleton, was ordered to be spread on the Minutes:

ADDRESS.

COMPANIONS:

As Officers and Members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Mississippi, under the watchful care of an "All-wise Providence," we are again permitted to meet in Council, to transact such business as pertans to our Order; and whilst we are thus assembled, may each Companion act well his part, recollecting, that although his thoughts, words and actions may be hidden from men, yet, that "All-seeing Eye that pervades the immost recesses of the heart," is continually over him.

On examining the Proceedings of our Sister Grand Chapters, for the past year, we find that peace and harmony prevail throughout the entire jurisdiction of our General Grand Chapter. Within our own State the march of R. A. Masonry is still onward. Through the untiring energy and zeal manifested by our worthy Companion Grand Lecturer, he has succeeded in establishing, in the greater number of the Subordinate Chapters, the mode of work recommended by this Grand Chapter at its last Grand Annual Convocation; and by again placing him at the helm, I have no doubt, but that within the next twelve months, we will have a uniform mode of work throughout our jurisdiction.

Upon proper application, I granted, during the past year, Dispensations for organizing four new Chapters, viz:

One at Shoeboota, Clarke county; one at Carrollville, Tishomingo county; one at Panola, Panola county; one at Clinton, Hinds county.

Soon after the close of the Grand Chapter, at its last Grand Annual Convocation, I was informed by the High Priest of Ripley Chapter, No. 48, that the Charter granted to said Chapter was lost, and desired a Dispensation, authorizing said Chapter to proceed with its labors, until the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter. I granted said Dispensation, and upon the proper returns of said Chapter being made, would recommend that a Duplicate be granted.

During the summer, a communication was received from the High Priest, King and Seribe of Wayne Chapter, No. 25, stating that said Chapter had forfeited its Charter to the last Grand Chapter: that all work, for several months, had been suspended, and that as the members were desirous of again meeting as a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, they prayed for a Dispensation, authorizing said Chapter to resume labors, and make due Returns to this Grand Chapter. Said Dispensation was granted, and I would now recommend that this Grand Chapter take into consideration the condition of said Chapter, and if expedient, renew the Charter.

In consequence of some unavoidable circumstance, Jackson Chapter, No. 6, failed to elect its Officers at the regular meeting prescribed by the Constitution. Upon a statement of the facts, and proper application. I granted a special Dispensation authorizing an election of Officers to take place on the 19th December, which was properly attended to.

At the last Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, a Charter was granted to Bay St. Louis Chapter, No. 54, but it was not presented for the signature of the proper officers. Upon being informed of the fact—by the High Priest of said Chapter, I authorized him to sign my name, that the Chapter might proceed with its work.

Mt. Carmel Chapter, No. 50, made application and received a Dispensation to confer the Royal Arch Degree upon a sojourning Brother, who, it was said, was "every way worthy and well qualified," and hal the recommendation of a Chapter within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter. On receipt of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter at its last Grand Annual Convocation, I discovered that an individual of the same name and occupation, had been rejected by another Chapter. I immediately notified Mt. Carmel Chapter of the fact, revoking the Dispensation. But my notice was not received in time. I would recommend that this Grand Chapter take the matter under consideration, and ferret out, and bring the guilty party to justice.

Companions,—Believing that I have laid before you all matters of importance that have come to my knowledge since the last Grand Annuel Convocation, I would further bring to your notice the cyll and unmasonic practice of duelling, which is sometimes indulged in by Royal Arch Masons, and recommend that you take such action as, in your wisdom, you may deem right. In looking over this large and intelligent assembly, I rest satisfied that the cause of Royal Arch Masonry is sate in your hands.

Companions,—It is true that the duties of life are more than life itself. Gifted, as man is, with an active, inquiring mind; with a heart alive to pleasure and sorrow; with an immortal soul, and after destiny—we are admonished so to live as to benefit the human race. An act of Charity or benevolence done to another, creates in the—bosom of the good man, a melody, sweeter than the divinest harmony, and brings a reward far more precious than the wealth of the "Golden Fields of California." The consciousness of having—made one individual happy during the day, may well serve as a reward for the—performance of a good act. The promptings of a benevolent nature, are pure and lofty, and shed a tinge of tranquil happiness on the soul of him who possesses it.

As the morning dew ascends to Heaven, rich with the fragrance of flowers it has refreshed and beautified, so true benevolence ascends to the skies, leden with the blessings of those upon whom it has shel a ray of warm and genial sunshine. Who could brook the thought of going to the bed of death, without the light of one single noble deed to irradiate his pathway through the dark valley to the grave!

Let us remember, that the great objects of our Association are the restraints of improper desires and passions, the cultivation of an active benevolence, and the promptings of a correct knowledge of the duties we owe to God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

May peace, harmony and brotherly love prevail: may the benign Genius of the "Mystic Art" preside over our deliberations, and under her sway, let us act with a dignity becoming the high and moral character of our venerable Institution.

Companion Brown offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, that so much of the M. E. Grand High Priest's Address as refers to duelling, be referred to a Select Committee: when Companions Brown, Lewis and Lackey were announced as the Committee.

Companion Crane offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That so much of the M. E. Grand High-Priest's Address as refers to the exaltation of a Companion who had been rejected by another Chapter, be referred to a Select Committee; whereupon the Chair appointed Companions Crane, Horne and Mellen.

Companion Rosser offered the following resolution, which was adopted: Resolved, That the balance of the Address of the M. E. G. H. Priest be referred to a Select Committee; whereupon Companions Yandell, Horne and Mctichee were announced as the Committee. The M. E. Grand High Priest then anneunced the following Standing Committees:

On Dispensations—Companions Howry, Steele, Daniel, Evans, and Alexunder.

On Returns of Subordinate Chapters—Companions Purdom, Hand, Oliver, Stamps, Harvey, and Comfort.

On By-Laws—Companions Hoyne, Mercer, and Evans.

On Accounts—Companions Lampkin, Hobson, and Steele.

On Unfinished Business—Companions Cannon, Brown, and Jones.

On Appeals—Companions Daniel, Warren, and Lackey.

On motion of Companion Brown, the election of officers was made the order of the day for to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock.

On motion of Companion Carleton, the Grand Chapter was called to refreshment until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, Jan. 9, 1855-9 o'clock, A. M.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter was called from refreshment to labor. Prayer by Rev. Companion William H. McCurdy.

PRESENT:

M. E. WILLIAM S. PATTON, Grand High Priest.
E. BURTON YANDELL, Depaty Grand High Priest.
E. S. EVANS, Grand King, pro tem.
E. James A. Chapman, Grand Seribe.
Companion L. V. Dinon, Grand Tréasurer.
Companion Richmond M'Innis, Grand Secretary.
Companion William H. McCurdy, Grand Chaplain.
Companion Walker Brooke, Grand Marshal, pro tem.
Companion Richard S. Roome, Grand Principal Sojourner.
Companion J. S. Lewis, Grand Royal Arch Captain, pro tem.
Companion E. B. Harvey, Grand Master 3d V., pro tem.
Companion B. N. Alexander, Grand Master 2d V., pro tem.
Companion WM. R. Cannon, Grand Master 1st V., pro tem.
Companion Charles Kopperil, Grand C. of the Host, pro tem.
Companion Charles Kopperil, Grand C. of the Host, pro tem.

Past Grand Officers:

WALKER BROOKE, Past Grand High Priest.
CHARLES SCOTT, Past Grand High Priest.
CHARLES KOPPERL, Past Deputy Grand High Priest.
WILLIAM P. MELLEN, Past Deputy Grand High Priest.
WILLIAM R. LACKEY, Past Grand King.
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Representatives.

Natchez Chapter, No. 1.—A. H. Kendrick.

Vicksburg, No. 3.—R. W. T. Daniel.

Columbus, No. 4.—Wm. R. Cannon, A. W. Lampkire.

Jackson, No. 6.--Wm. S. Patton, R. M. Hobson.

Magnolia, No. 7.—A. L. McKay.

Yazoo, No. 8.—B. Yandell,

Lexington, No. 9.—W. A. Purdom, Fleet C. Mercer

DeWitt Clinton, No. 12.—Daniel Rosser.

Carrollton, No. 15.—Giles M. Hillyer.

Wm. H. Wilkinson, No. 16.--L. K. Barbey

Gallatin, No. 17.-George Ray.

Vernon, No. 19.-J. J. Scott.

Kosciusko, No. 20.—D. S. Comfort.

Quitman, No. 21.-W. Carey Crane.

Raymond, No. 22.—D. J. Brown.

Houston, No. 23.—R. G. Steele.

Wayne, No. 24.—J. H. Horne,

Union, No. 25.--S. Evans.

Paulding, No. 26.—J. A. Chapman.

Walker, No. 28.—E. F. McGehee.

Washington, No. 29.—William R. Lackey.

Shongalo, No.: 0.—Charles Kopperl. *

Decatur, No. 31.-William H. McCurdy, R. P. Jones.

Lafavette, No. 33.—James M. Howry.

Neshoba, No. 34.--J. S. Lewis.

Charles Scott, No. 35,-J. B. Stamps.

Louisville, No. 36.--Nathaniel Woodward.

Marshall, No. 40.-J. C. Warren.

Enterprise, No. 45,--E. E. Hand.

Ripley, No. 48.—J. E. Rogers.

New Albany, No. 49.—W. D. Robbins.

Mt. Carmel, No. 50.-E. B. Harvey.

Geo. Washington, No. 51.-B. N. Alexander.

Bay St. Louis, No. 54.—O. M. Oliver.

Bethesda, No. 55.—James T. Williams.

Carrollville, U. D.—T. J. Carleton.

Wright, U. D.-T. P. Knight.

A communication from Companion W. S. Ray was read, and on motion of Companion Secretary, was referred to the Committee on Dispensations.

The Committee on Credentials made the following further report, which was received and adopted .

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report, that they have examined the Credentials of Companion sides M. Hillyer, as proxy for the High Priest of Carrollton Chapter. No. 15, and find him entitled to a seat in this M. E. Grand Body.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM R. CANNON, Chairman.

The petition of Companion W. P. Womack and others, was received, and referred to the Committee on Dispensations.

The Committee to whom was referred that portion of the M. E. Grand High Priest's address relating to duelling, made their report, which was received, and on motion of Companion Steele, was made the special order of the day for to-morrow morning, 11 o'clock.

Companion Rosser presented the following, which, on motion of Companion Carleton, was referred to a committee of three.

To the M. E. G. H. P., K. and S. of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi:

The M. E. High Priest of DeWitt Clinton Chapter, No. 12, of Royal Arch Masons represents, that at the November Convocation of said Chapter, a charge of unmasonic conduct, to-wit: drunkenness—was preferred against a Companion of said Chapter; whereupon a Committee of Investigation was appointed.

At the December Convocation of said Chapter, the Committee reported, that they had had an interview with said Companion, and that he acknowledged his guilt. Whereupon, on motion, the charge was dismissed, the M. E. High Priest and E. Scribe dissenting. They now submit the case to the wisdom of this Grand Body, and ask, that if, in the opinion of said DeWitt Clinton Chapter, the end had been attained, they had the right to dismiss said charges? or, should said Companion have been brought before said Chapter and reprimanded.

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed Companions Tupper, Brooke and Scott, on said Committee.

Companion Purdom asked leave of absence for the Committee on Returns, which was granted.

Companion Kopperl offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee or five be appointed to draw a Code of Rules for the government of Subordinate Chapters in trials of offen ling members.

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed Companions Kopperl, Hillyer, Evans, Brooke and Lampkin, on said Committee.

Companion Brooke offered the following resolution, which was received and referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Companions Brooke, Scott and Tupper.

Resolved, As one of the Permanent Regulations of this Grand Chapter, that when a Royal Arch Mason stands charged in a Court of Justice in this State, with an offence against the criminal or penal laws, no proceedings touching said offence, shall be instituted against such Companion so charged, until after his case shall have been disposed of by said Court; and in the meantime, such Companion is entitled to the exercise of all "Masonic rights and privileges;" and should any other Companion refuse to hold Masonic intercourse with him, such conduct would be unmasonic and highly reprehensible.

The Committee on the Exaltation of a Master Mason who had been rejected by another Chapter, made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter A.]

The Committee on Dispensations made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter B.]

The Committee on the communication from DeWitt Clinton Chapter, No. 12, made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter C.]

The Committee to whom was referred the resolution offered by Companior. Brooke, made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter D.]

Companion Brown offered the following resolution, which was lost.

Resident, That M. ishall Chapter, No. 40, be allowed until the next Grand Annual Convection, to pay her dees, provide take Representative of scal Chapter shall not be allowed to draw nillegge and per dieta.

Chapter called off until 212 o'clock, P. M.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1855—212 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Chapter resumed its labors. Preyer by Rev. Companion Wut H. McCurdy.

PRESENT:

M. E. William S. Patton, G. H. Priest.

M. E. Burton Yandell, Deputy G. H. Priest

E. W. R. LACKEY, G. King, pro tem.

E. J. A. CHAPMAN, G. Scribe.

Companion E. McINNS, G. Secretary.

Companion WILLIAM H. McCURDY, G. Chaplain.

Companion D. J. Brown, G. Marshal.

Companion R. S. ROOME, G. P. S.

Companien J. T. WILLIAMS, G. R. A. C.

Companion E. B. HARVEY, G. M. 3d Veil.

Companion B. N. ALEXANDER, G. M. 2d V.

Companien William R. Cannon, G. M. 1st V

Companion A. H. KENDRICK, G. C. Host.

Companion A. D. Evans, G. Janitor.

Past Grand Officers.

M. E. Companion T. C. Tuppen, P. G. H. P.

M. E. Companion Walker Brooke, P. G. H. P.

E. Companion William P. Meller, P. D. G. H. P.

E. Companion Charles Kopperl, P. D. G. H. P.

Representatives some as in the morning.

The hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, the special order of the day was called for, to-wit: that the Grand Lecturer, Companion W. R. Lackey, be requested to exemplify the work, by a Lecture in each of of the Chapter Degrees.

In obedience to said resolution, Companion Lackey proceeded to the discharge of said duty, and exemplified, fully, the work, by a Lecture in the several Degrees of Mark, Past, and Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch: whereupon, Companion Tupper offered the following resolution:

Resolved. That the Lectures delivered by our Grand Lecturer, Companion Lackey, are fully approved, and are hereby adopted by this Grand Chapter.

Companion Howry moved to lay this resolution on the table, which was lost: whereupon, the vote was taken on the adoption of the resolution, and carried.

The Committee on Credentials made a further report, which was adopted. [See Reports—Letter E.]

The Committee on Unfinished Business made their report, which was received, and on motion of Companion ———, was laid on the table. [See Reports—Letter F.]

The Committee on By-Laws made their report, which was adopted. [See Reports—Letter G.]

The Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment, until 7 o'clock P. M.

Tuesday Evening, Jan. 9, 1855-7 o'clock.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

. Same officers and representatives as before.

Prayer by Rev. Companion McCurdy.

The Committee on Credentials made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter II.]

The hour having arrived, the order of the day was called for, to-wit; the election of the Grand Officers for the ensuing twelve months.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election, which resulted in the election of

Companion WM. R. CANNON, of Columbus, M. E. G. H. P.

Companion JAS. M. HOWRY, Oxford, M. E. D. G. H. P.

Companion W. A. PURDOM, Lexington, E. G. King.

Companion A. H. KENDRICK, Natchez, E. G. Scribe.

Companion L. V. Dixon, Jackson, G. Treasurer.

Companion R. W. T. DANIEL, Vicksburg, G. Secretary.

Companion Rev. J. A. Godfrey, Jackson, G. Chaplain.

Companion R. S. ROOME, Vicksburg, G. Marshal.

Companion GILES M. HILLYER, Natchez, Grand Orator.

On motion of Companion Brooke, the election was suspended until to-morrow at 9 o'clock, Λ . M.

The Grand Secretary then presented his report, which, together with that of the Grand Treasurer, was referred to the Committee on Accounts, who made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter I.]

The Grand Chapter was called off until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Wednesday Morning, Jan. 10, 1855--9 o'clock.

Same officers and members as before.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

Prayer by Rev. Companion McCurdy.

Companion Horne offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Charter of Wayne Chapter, No. 24, which has been for some time suspended for non-payment of dues, be renewed upon the liquidation of the same.

The Grand Chapter then resumed the election of Officers, which resulted as follows:

Companion E. B. HARVEY, Williamsburg, G. C. of H.

Companion D. S. Comfort, Kosciusko, G. P. S.

Companion J. T. WILLIAMS, Burketville, G. R. A. C.

Companion T. J. CARLETON, Carrollville, G. M. 3d V.

Companion R. P. Jones, Decatur, G. M. 2d V.

Companion O. M. OLIVER, Shieldsboro, G. M. 1st V.

Companion A. D. Evans, Jackson, G. Janitor.

On motion of Companion ——, the Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Lecturer, which resulted in the election of Companion W. R. Lackey, of Cayuga.

The Committee on Returns made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter J.]

The hour having arrived, the order of the day was called for, to-wit: the Report of the Committee on Duelling. The report was read a second time, when on motion of Companion Webb, the 3d resolution was stricken out.

Companion Kopperl moved to lay the whole upon the table, which was lost.

The report, as amended, on motion, was re-committed—Companions Tupper and Webb being added to the Committee.

On motion of Companion Crane, the Installation of the Grand Officers elect, was made the order of the day for 2½ o'clock, P. M.

Companion McInnis offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the petition for a Dispensation by Companions belonging to another Chapter, be referred to a Select Committee.

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed Companions Crane, Alexander, Kopperl, Daniel and Hyer, on said Committee.

Companion Crane offered the following amendment to the Constitution:

Resolved, That Article III of the Constitution, which reads, "The Annual Meetings of this Grand Chapter shall be held at the Seat of Government," be so amended as to read, "shall be held at the City of Vicksburg."

Resolved, That each Chapter in the State be requested to instruct its Representatives to the next Grand Annual Convocation, for which place to vote.

The Committee on Duelling made their final report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter K.]

Companion Lampkin offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the proper understanding and regulation of Subordinate Chapters, a uniform scale of charges for the reception of Degrees, be established, and that hereafter, Forty Dollars be the regular charge for the same.

Companion Rosser moved to strike out "Forty," and insert "Thirty," which was lost.

Companion Webb moved to insert "Thirty-five," in lieu of "Forty," which was lost.

The vote being taken on the original resolution, the same was adopted.

Companion Brown offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Spring Ridge Chapter, No. 41, be allowed to change her By-Laws, so that her Convocations may be holden on the second, instead of the FOURTH Saturday in each and every month.

The Committee on that portion of the Address of the M. E. Grand High Priest, not otherwise referred, made their Report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter L.]

Companion Kopperl offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the M. E. Deputy Grand High Priest, Companion Yandell, be allowed his per diem for last year.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment, until $2\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, P. M.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 10, 1855-21, o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

Same officers and representatives as before.

Prayer by Rev. Companion McCurdy.

Companion Yandell offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter hails the appearance of the "Acacia," a Masonic Periodical, published by our worthy Companion, Giles M. Hillyer, as an earnest of the growing prosperity of the Order in the State of Mississippi, and most cordially recommends it to the patronage of the Fraternity.

The hour having arrived, the special order of the day was called for; where upon, the M. E. Grand High Priest proceeded to the Installation of the Grand Officers elect, as follows:

M. E. WILLIAM R. CANNON, Grand High Priest.

E. James M. Howry, Deputy Grand High Priest.

E. W. A. PURDOM, Grand King.

E. A. H. KENDRICK, Grand Scribe.

Companion L. V. Dixon, Grand Treasurer.

Companion R. W. T. DANIEL, Grand Secretary.

Companion Rev. J. A. Godfrey, Grand Chaplain.

Companion RICHARD S. ROOME, Grand Marshal.

Companion Giles M. Hillyer, Grand Orator.

Companion E. B. Harvey, Grand Captain of Host.

Companion D. S. Comfort, Grand P. Sojourner.

Companion J. T. WILLIAMS, Grand R. A. C.

Companion T. J. Carleton, Grand Master 3d V.

Companion R. P. Jones, Grand Master 2d V.

Companion O. M. OLIVER, Grand Master 3d V.

Companion W. R. LACKEY, Grand Lecturer.

Companion A. D. Evans, Grand Janitor.

The Grand Officers elect having assumed their respective positions, or motion of Comparion Dixon, it was

Resolved. That the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be excused from making a Report.

Companion Rosser effered the following:

Resolved, That D. Witt Timon Chapter, No. 12, be exempt from the regulation which requires, that not be a their Ferry Dollars shall be paid for the Chapter Degrees, which on motion of Companion Lamphin, was laid on the table.

Companion Kopperl offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resulted. That a Committee of Three be appointed, whose duty it shall be, to prepare a suitable form of "Installation Ceremonies" for the Officers of the Grand Chapter, and report the same at the next Crand Annual Convocation.

Whereupon, the M. E. Grand High Priest appointed Companions Tupper. Patton and Brooke.

Companion Oliver offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Bay St. Louis Chapter, No. 51, be allowed so to amend her By-Laws, as to change the time of loiding her stated Communications, from the first Wednesday to the first Friday of each north.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the petition of Companions for a Dispensation, who are members of another Chapter, made their report, which was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter M.]

Companion Webb offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved. That Shields Royal Arch Chapter, No. 18, be allowed to install the officers elect, and continue to work, upon the payment of all past dues, notwithstanding her failure to send up her Returns, and elect her officers at the proper time.

Companion Rosser offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved. That D.Witt Clinton Chapter, No. 12, be excused from the payment of the excess of dues reported by the Committee on Returns of Subordinate Chapters, at this Grand Annual Convocation.

Companion Patton presented the following, which was adopted:

Resolved. That hereafter, the Installation of the Officers of this Grand Chapter shall take place at the close of each session, and that the present Grand Officers hold over until that time

On motion, Icave of absence, for the remainder of the session, after this evening, was granted Companions Brown, A. H. Kendrick, E. G. Seribe, Crane. Barber, Horne and Knight.

Companion Purdom offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee of Three be appointed to investigate the Returns from Kociusko Chapter, No. 20, as recommended by the Report of the Committee on Returns of Subordinate Chapters, and report by resolution, for the action of this Grand Body.

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed Companions Comfort, Williams and Godfrey.

Resolved, That the following Resolution, now recognized as one of the Permanent Regulations, to-wit: "Resolved, That the Delegates from Chapters U. D., shall be paid mileage and per diem: Provided, that but one Delegate be entitled to receive such compensation, and that no delegate shall receive, out of the funds of the Grand Chapter, a larger sum than that paid in at the same meeting, as annual dues," be rescinded—this Grand Chapter holding the opinion, that only such Chapters as have regularly organized by the election and installation of their Officers, are entitled to representatives in this Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment, until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING, Jan. 11, 1855-9 o'clock.

PRESENT:

M. E. William R. Cannon, Grand High Priest.

E. James M. Howry, Deputy Grand High Priest.

E. W. A. PURDOM, Grand King.

E. W. R. LACKEY, Grand Scribe, pro tem.

Companion R. W. T. DANIEL, Grand Secretary.

Companion WILLIAM H. McCurdy, G. Chaplain, p. t.

Companion E. B. HARVEY, Grand Captain of Host.

Companion D. S. Comfort, Grand P. Sojourner.

Companion J. T. WILLIAMS, Grand R. A. C.

Companion T. J. Carleton, Grand Master 3d V.

Companion R. P. Jones, Grand Master 2d V.

Companion O. M. OLIVER, Grand Master 3d V.

Companion RICHARD S. ROOME, Grand Marshal.

Companion A. D. Evans, Grand Janitor.

Past Grand Officers.

- M. E. Companion WM. S. Patton, P. G. H. P.
- M. E. Companion Burton Yandell, P. D. G. H. P.
- E. Companion J. A. Chapman, P. G. S.
- E. Companion Charles Kopperl, P. D. G. H. P.
- E. Companion W. R. LACKEY, P. G. K.

Representatives same as before, except those to whom leave of absence was granted.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

Prayer by Rev. Companion William H. McCurdy.

On motion of Companion McInnis, the Report of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of Petitions from Royal Arch Masons, praying for Dispensations for the Institution of Chapters, which Petitions are signed by Companions who have not dimitted for that purpose, was reconsidered.

Whereupon, Companion McInnis moved to strike out "for that purpose," and insert "previously," before dimitted. The Report, as amended, was adopted. [See Reports—Letter M.]

The Committee on Credentials made a further Report, which, on motion of Companion Rossey, was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter N.]

The Committee to whom was referred the Returns of Kosciusko Chapter, No. 20, made their Report, which, on motion of Companion McInnis, was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter O.]

The Committee appointed to draft a "Code of Rules" for the government of Subordinate Chapters, in trials of offending members, made their Report, which, on motion of Companion McInnis, was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter P.]

On motion of Companion Brooke,

Resolved, That saic Committee be allowed to sit during recess, and make a further Report at the Annual Convection of this Grand Body.

The hour having arrived, the Resolution offered by Companion Kopperl, and made the special order of the day, at 9 o'clock, A. M., was taken up and discussed, and on motion of Companion Brooke, the call of the Chapter was made and lost—aves 49, noes 61.

Companion Howry offered the following Resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolution, offered by Companion Kopperl, be referred to a Select Committee of Three, to report thereon, at the next Grand Annual Convocation.

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed Companions Howry, Brooke and Kopperl, on said Committee.

The Committee on Appeals made their Report, which was received. [See Reports—Letter Q.]

Companion Kooperl offered the following Resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Subordinate Chapters be required to procure proper Scals, and that no Proxy, or Certificate of Representation be recognized by this Grand Chapter, unless the same is attested by the Sceretary of the Chapter issuing the same, and the Scal of the Chapter affixed thereto.

Companion Webb proposed to amend, by striking out the latter clause, but the amendment was lost.

When the motion of Companion Brooke, to lay on the table, was adopted.

On motion of Companion Lampkin, the Report of the Committee on Accounts was received and agreed to.

Companion Kopperl offered the following Resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be required to have appended to the printed Proceedings, all the Permanent "Rules and Regulations" of this Grand Chapter, now in force, together with the Constitutions of both the State Grand Chapter, and the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Companion Alexander offered the following Resolution, which was adopted: Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Chapter be, and they are hereby tendered to our Past M. E. Grand High Priest, William S. Patton, and his Associates in Office, for the able, impartial and dignified manner in which they have discharged their respective duties.

The Committee on Returns of Subordinate Chapters made a further report, which, on motion of Companion Purdom, was received and adopted. [See Reports—Letter R.]

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

EXALTATION OF A MASTER MASON. (A.)

To the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Mississippi:

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the exaltation of a Master Mason, who had been rejected by a Chapter, have investigated that matter, and have learned, that a reputable Baptist elergyman, the Rev. A. M. McKenzie, a traveling Missionary Agent, applied for the Chapter Degrees to Amite Chapter, No. 42, under the belief that said degrees would be, (as they are sometimes done,) conferred on him GRATIS; and that owing to a misunderstanding on that subject, he was rejected;—that said Brother McKenzie did not know that he had been rejected, as he was only informed that he could not obtain the degrees gratis; that in this state of facts, he applied to Lexington Chapter for the degrees, and received the two degrees of Mark and Past Master there, and from Lexington, went to Mt. Carmel Chapter, without knowing that the had ever been rejected, which Chapter obtained from the M. E. Grand High Priest a Dispensation to confer on him, the other degrees, viz: Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch.

It appears, therefore, that all the parties to this transaction from first to last, acted in good faith; that no Chapter engaged in conferring these degrees, intended to infringe the authority of another Chapter; that the Brother rejected, and afterwards exalted, was not aware of his rejection; and that the M. E. Grand High Priest exercised all proper discretion and vigilance in the discharge of his duties.

Your Committee are of opinion, that there is no Masonic law known to them, which can reach the case; and they, therefore, ask to be excused from its further consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

W. CAREY CRANE, J. H. HORNE, WM. P. MELLEN, Committee.

ON DISPENSATIONS. [B.]

The Committee on Chapters under Dispensations, beg leave to report, that they have earefully examined the Proceedings of Panola, Shoeboota, Warren, Carrollville and Mt. Salus Chapters, and find them generally correct.

In the Proceedings of Mt. Salus Chapter, your Committee observe, that the candidates were elected instanter, without their petitions being referred to a Committee. This practice they disapprove, and recommend that it be discontinued in all Chapters in which it is pursued

In the Proceedings and Returns of Warren Chapter, your Committee find an election and installation of Officers, and the admission and dimission of members, and that they have reported the persons exalted as members of the Chapter. The proceedings your Committee believe to be irregular, and recommend that the Returns be corrected, and that the charge of fifty cents for each member reported, be stricken out.

Your Committee recommend that the name of said Chapter be changed from Warren to that of Wright, as prayed for by said Chapter.

Your Committee find in the Proceedings of Shoeboota Chapter, too much tautology, and would advise more conciseness in their Minutes.

Allowance should be made in the organization of new Chapters, for many errors which they commit, owing to the fact, that it is difficult to get proper instruction from wellinformed brethren.

Your Committee recommend that Charters issue to said Chapters. They also recommend that a Duplicate be issued to Columbus Chapter, No. 4, and Wayne Chapter, No. 24.

The Memorial from certain Companious, praying for a Dispensation for a Chapter at Looxahoma, your Committe would respectfully recommend, that it be referred to the M. E Grand High Priest, to be acted on according to his discretion. The reason your Committeemake this reference is, that they are informed that some of the petitioners are officers of other Chapters, and that they may correct their irregularity, and obtain their Dispensations at a future time.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Howry, Chrismata R. W. T. Daniel, S. Evans, R. G. Steele, B. N. Alexander,

Committee.

DE WITT CLINTON CHAPTER. (C.)

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi:

The Committee to whom was referred the communication of the M. E. Grand High Priest and Scribe of DeWitt Clinton Chapter, No. 12, respectfully report, that they find among the Proceedings of the last Grand Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That should any Royal Arch Mason within this jurisdiction, so far forget himself as to become intoxicated, it shall be the duty of the first three Officers, or any member of the Chapter of which he is a member, or to which he is subordinate, to put such Companion on his trial for such offence; and on conviction for the first offence, he shall be reprimanded or suspended, as in the judgment of such Chapter may be deemed right and proper, and for the second offence, he shall be suspended for a definite or indefinite time, or expelled."

Your Committee are, therefore of the opinion, that the M. E. High Priest, as the presiding Officer of De Witt Clinton Chapter, No. 12, should have ruled the motion to dismiss the charges against the offending Companion, as not in order, and that it is imperative upon the Subordinate Chapters, upon a conviction of any Companion for drunkenness, to reprimand or suspend him.

Respectfully submitted,

T. C. TUPPER,
W. BROOKE,
CHARLES SCOTT,
Committee.

TRIALS OF COMPANIONS. [D.]

The Committee to whom was referred the Resolution offered by Companion Brooke, in reference to Masor ic trials of Companions who stand charged with offences in courts of law, have had the same under consideration, and deeming some legislation on the subject necessary, beg leave to report the following resolution as a substitute for the one referred:

"Resolved, As one of the Permanent Regulations of this Grand Chapter, that when a Companion stand charged in any of the courts of this State with an offence against the criminal or penal laws, no trial of the same offence can be had in a Subordinate Chapter, until after a final disposition of the case in said court of law. But in the meantime, the Chapter under the jurisdiction of which the Companion resides, may temporarily suspend him from Royal Arch Masonic intercourse and privileges until final trial at law. But should such Chapter refuse to suspend him, he remains entitled to all such Masonic rights."

Respectfully submitted,

WALKER BROOKE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS. [E.]

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report, that they have examined the Returns of Magnolia Chapter, No. 7, and find the following Companions entitled to seats in this M. E. Grand Body, to-wit: A. L. McKay, G. J. Hulme, J. P. Martin.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. R. CANNON,
W. CAREY CRANE,
DANIEL ROSSER,
CHAS. KOPPERL,
Committee

ON UNIFINISHED BUSINESS. (F.)

The Committee on Unfinished Business beg leave to report, that after a careful examination of the Minutes of the last Grand Annual Convocation, they find, on page '37 of said Proceedings, the following inquiry, to-wit:

"Is it proper or Masonic, and consistent with the ancient regulations of Masonry, for a member of a Chapter to dimit, except in ease of removal from the vicinity of the Chapter of which he is a member, or for the purpose of joining another Chapter?"

And on page 39, the following, to-wit:

"Resolved, That the Committee on dimitting members have leave to sit after the adjournment of this Grand Body, and report at the next Grand Annual Convocation;" which is hereby presented as worthy the attention of this Grand Body.

Also, on page 47, they find the following, to-wit:

"Resolved, That the Constitution of the Grand Chapter be amended as follows: In the 6th Article, strike out two dollars for every thirty miles going to and returning from the Grand Chapter, and two dollars a day for each day's attendance on the same; and insert therein, three dollars for every thirty miles travel going to and returning from the Grand Chapter, and three dollars a day for each day's attendance on the same;" the disposition of which amendment is hereby presented for the consideration of this M. E. Grand Body.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. R. CANNON, R. P. JONES, D. J. BROWN.

ON BY-LAWS. [G.]

To the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Mississippi :

The Committee on By-Laws would most respectfully beg leave to make the following Report:

They have examined the By-Laws of Patton, Union, Mt. Salus and Wright Chapter, and find the same generally correct.

They would recommend the alteration of the 9th section of Article I, of the By-Laws of Union Chapter, so as to give the power of opening the Chapter to the three principal officers ONLY, or to some Past M. E. High Priest.

Your Committee would also recommend the substitution of Janiton for Guard, where the same appears in the By-Laws of Wright Chapter.

Your Committee also object to the 5th section of Art. VII of said By-Laws, which allows an appeal from the decision of the High Priest of the Chapter, on any question, and recommend that the same be rejected, inasmuch as your Committee believe an appeal from the decision of the High Priest contrary to Masonic Law.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. HOENE, F. C. MERCER, S. EVANS.

ON CREDENTIALS. (II.)

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report, that they have examined additional Returns, and find the following Companions entitled to seats in this M. E. Grand Body, viz: R. J. Jones, W. H. Ki patrick, J. W. Drake, and R. R. Webb, proxy for High Priest, King and Scribe, Shields Clapter, No. 18: William Hyer, George K. Birchett, C. A. Manlove, Vicksburg Chapter, No. 3.

All which is respectfully submitted.

WM. R. CANNON, DANIEL ROSSER, T. J. CARETON, W. CAREY CRANE, CHARLES KOPPERL.

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS. (L)

Volthe M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi :

The Committee on Accounts have examined the following claims against the Grand Chapter, and find them correct, and recommend that they be allowed and paid:

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RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS. [J.]

To the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Mississippi:

The undersigned Committee on Returns of Subordinate Chapters, respectfully beg leave to Report, that they have examined the Returns of the following named Chapters, and find them correct, to wit:

Vicksburg Chapter, No. 3: Euphemia, No. 13; Wm. H. Wilkinson, No. 16; Vernon, 19; Raymond, No. 22; Wayne, No. 24; Paulding, No. 26; Decatur, No. 31; Lafayette, No. 33; Neshoba, No. 34; Union, No. 37; Enterprise, No. 45; Camargo, No. 47; Geo. Washington, No. 51; Bay St. Louis, No. 54; Bethesda, No. 55; Shoeboota, U. D.

The Returns of the following named Chapters are found to be incorrect, to wit:

Natchez Chapter, No. 1, returns 49 members when it should be 48. Excess of dues 50 cents.

Clinton, No. 2, returns 31 members: it should be 34: deficit in dues, \$1 50.

Columbus, No. 4, returns 44 members: it should be 43: excess of dues 50 cents.

Jackson, No. 6, returns 39 members: it should be 38; excess of dues 50 cents,

Yazoo, No. 8, returns 23 members; whereas, a rigid scrutiny convinces your Committee that 34 should have been returned as members, or otherwise accounted for. There is, consequently, your Committee ventures to say, a deficiency in the dues of said Chapter, of \$5.50.

Lexington, No. 9, returns 59 members: it should be 60: deficit in dues, 50 cents.

DeWitt Clinton, No. 12.—Upon a faithful comparison of the present Returns with those of last year, in connection with the Report of the Committee on Subordinate Chapters, at that time, we are convinced that said Chapter should have returned 59 members instead of 48, leaving a deficit of dues reported, of \$5.50.

Carrollton, No. 15, returns 19 members, when it should be 23: deficit of \$2.

Gallatin, No. 17, returns 49 members, when it should be 50: a deficit of 50 cents.

Kosciusko, No. 20.—The Returns of this Chapter, both at this time, and at the last Convocation of this Grand Body, contain, in the Roll of Members, the names of deceased, dimitted, and suspended Companions: in view of which, your Committee venture to recommend the appointment of a Special Committee in the premises.

Quitman, No. 21, returns 49 members instead of 48: excess of dues, 50 cents.

Houston, No. 23, returns 42 members: it should be 44: deficit in dues of 50 cents.

Marion, No. 25, returns 36 members: it should be 35; excess of dues, 50 cents.

Walker, No. 28, returns 33 members : it should be 35 : deficiency in dues returned, \$1.

Washington, No. 29, returns 34 members: it should be 33; excess of dues, 50 cents.

Shongalo, No. 30, returns 36 members: it should be 34: excess of dues returned, \$1. This error originates by inserting the names of two of the Officers in the Roll of Members.

Charles Scott, No. 35, returns 37 members: it should be 44: deficit of dues \$3-50.

Spring Ridge, No. 41, returns 26 members: it should be 28: deficiency of dues, \$1.

Marshall, No. 40, returns 36 members: it 3hould be 34: excess of dues, \$1.

Ripley, No. 48, returns 31 instead of 34 members, the correct number: deficit, \$1-50.

New Albany, No. 49, returns 28 members: it should be 24: excess of dues, \$2.

Mt. Carmel, No. 50, returns 32, but it should be 35 members : deficiency of dues, \$1 56

*Palo Alto, No. 53, returns 44 members: it should be 42: excess of dues, §1.

Magnolia, No. 7, returns 33 members: it should be 34: deficit in dues, 50 cents.

Shields, No. 18, in making the last three Annual Returns to the present Convocation of this Grand Chapter, commits the following errors, to wit:

^{*}The Committee report Palo Alto Chapter, No. 53, as having the same number with Geo. Washington, No. 51, and recommend that it should be remedied. This is an error occasioned by the Secretary of said Chapter. It is number 53 in the Charter, and should have been so returned.

Gr. Sec.

In the first Return, by reporting 25 members, when it should have been 31. In the second, 27 instead of 29; and in the last Return, 26 in lieu of 36, the correct number of members, making in the aggregate, a deficiency of dues of \$6.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

W. A. PCRDOM,
J. B. STAMPS,
E. E. HAND,
O. M. OLIVER,
D. S. COMFORT,
E. B. HARVEY.

ON DUELLING, (K)

To the M. E. Royal Arch Chapter of Mississippi:

The Committee to whom was reterred so much of the Address of the M. E. Grand High Priest as relates to the subject of Duelling, have had the same under consideration, and would beg leave to make the following Report:

Your Committee regret that they have not been able to find this subject treated by any of our Grand Bodies. We are advised that the Grand Lodge of California have recently had this subject before them; but what their precise action was, your Committee are not advised, except, that they deem the practice, in the highest degree, unmasonic. The practice of Duelling, your Committee regard, as being contrary to the spirit of Royal Arch Masonry, and should not be telerated. It is calculated to bring reproach upon our time-honored Institution: all civil and religious organizations reprobate it, in the strongest terms, and we can see no reason why it should be tolerated among Royal Arch Masons. We regard it as being contrary to the spirit of the age in which we live; against all laws, both human and Divine: -we know that the Press, the Pulpit, and a refined sentiment are, and have been wielded against this barbarous practice, yet we find men who stand high in public estimation, from mistaken notions of honor, are ready to challenge their fellow-men to mortal combat, forgetting all law, both human and Divine. We have never known a duel that could not have been honorably avoided. We think one of the "cardinal virtues" is, to subdue our passions, and that Masons should not return "railing for railing," but should each endeavor to obey the laws laid down by the Supreme Architect of the Universe; and that no Mason should be engaged, either as principal or second, in any duel. But when Masons, who have communed together, should so far forget themselves, their obligations and ties which should bind them together, as to be engaged in a duel with one another, we know of no language of condemnation too strong to be passed upon them.

 $Your\ Committee\ would\ therefore\ recommend\ \ the\ adoption\ ot\ the\ following\ resolutions:$

- lst. Resolved, That Duelling is unmasonic, and should not be tolerated among Royal Arch Masons.
- 2d. Resolved, That should any Royal Arch Mason within this jurisdiction, so far forget his Masonic duties as to give, receive, accept or bear, a challenge to fight a duel, such Royal Arch Mason should, at once, be cited before the Chapter of which he is a member, or to which he may be subordinate, for trial; and on conviction, should be reprimanded, suspended or expelled, as shall seem to such Chapter to comport with the spirit of Masonry.
- 3d. Resolved, That should one Royal Arch Mason challenge another to fight a duel, such Royal Arch Mason should, on conviction, be at once expelled from the Chapter of which he is a member, or to which he may be subordinate; and that the same rule should apply to any Royal Arch Mason who should accept, bear, or challenge, or fight a duel with one who is not a Royal Arch Mason.
- 4th. Resolved, That it is hereby declared to be the duty of the Officers of any Chapter within this jurisdiction, on hearing of a violation of any of the foregoing Resolutions, by Royal Arch Masons, or by a Royal Arch Mason, to summon such Mason or Masons before the Chapter, and on conviction, inflict the punishment herein provided; and should the

Officers of any Chapter within this jurisdiction fail, or refuse to comply with these regulations, such Chapter shall merit and incur the displeasure of this Grand Chapter, and shall be subject to the infliction of such punishment as this Grand Chapter shall deem right and proper, even to a forfeiture of Charter and suspension from the rights of R. A. Masonry. All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. J. Brown,
W. R. Lackex,
James S. Lewis,
Committee.

[K.] - CONTINUED.

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Committee on the subject of Duelling, as amended, beg leave to make the following Report: That they have had the same under consideration, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved, That Duelling is unmasonic, and therefore should not be tolerated among Royal Arch Masons.

D. J. Brown,
W. R. Lackey,
Jas. S. Lewis,
T. C. Tupper,
R. R. Webb,
Committee.

M. E. GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS. [L.]

The Committee to whom was referred that portion of the M. E. Grand High Priest's Address, not otherwise referred, beg leave to report, that they have had the same under consideration, and now report, that they find nothing requiring any action on the part of this Committee, further than to recommend the issuing of a Duplicate Charter to Ripley Chapter No. 48, and the publishing the Address with the Minutes of the present Grand Annual Convocation.

Respectfully submitted.

B. YANDELL, E. F. McGehee, J. H. Horne, Committee.

PETITIONS FROM ROYAL ARCH MASONS. [M.]

To the M. E. Royal Arch Chapter of Mississippi:

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of petitions from Royal Arch Masons, praying for Dispensations for the institution of Chapters, which petitions are signed by Companions who have not dimitted for that purpose, beg leave to report, that having considered the subject, they regard such a course as productive of confusion among the Chapters of this jurisdiction, and oftentines inducing a conflict among officers of neighboring Chapters, and therefore submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the M. E. G. High Priest be instructed to grant no Dispensation for the institution of any new Chapter, the petitioners for which have not dimitted for that purpose, from the Chapter or Chapters to which they belonged, and forwarded their Dimits with their petitions.

Respectfully submitted,

W. CAREY CRANE,
B. N. ALEXANDER,
C. KOPPERL,
R. W. T. DANIEL,
WILLIAM HYER,
Committee.

RESOLUTION ABOVE, AS AMENDED. [M.]

Resolved, That the M. E. Grand High Priest be instructed to grant no Dispensation for the institution of any new Chapter, the petitioners for which have not enerously dimitted from the Chapter or Chapters to which they had belonged, and forwarded their dimits with their petitions.

Respectfully submitted,

W. CAREY CRANE, B. N. ALEXANDER, CHARLES KOPPERL, R. W. T. DANIEL, WILLIAM HYER, Committee.

ON CREDENTIALS. (N.)

The Committee on 'Tedentials beg leave to make the following further Report: That they have examined the Returns from the following Chapters, and find the following Companions entitled to scats in this Grand Body:

Carthage Chapter, No. 46.—John A. Hanson, H. P.; Green Allen, K.; J. M. Hooker, S. Hillsbore', No. 45.—John W. Wofford, H. P.; Wm. M. Christian, K.; Carolinus Boyd, S. Natchez, No. 1.—R. McInnis, proxy for A. H. Kendrick, H. P.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Kopperl, D. Rosser.

RETURNS OF KOSCIUSKO. (0.)

The Committee to whom were referred the Returns of Koseiusko Chapter, No. 20, begleave to submit the following Report: That they have carefully examined the Returns of said Chapter, and find that after deducting the mames of dead, suspended and dimitted members, that the true number should be 49, instead of 54, as reported, and therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That in lieu of the excess, reported by the Committee on the Returns of Subordinate Chapters, that said Chapter is entitled to a credit of \$2.50, making the true amount of dres, at this time. \$30.50, instead of \$33.00, as reported by said Committee.

CODE OF RULES. [P.]

The Committee appearated to draft a Code of Rules for the government of Subordinate Chapters in the treals of oriending members, beginning to submit the following Report:

Be it ordered and ordained by the Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi:-

- 1. There shall be appointed by the Grand Council of each and every Subordinate Chapter in this State, a Stan ling Committee, to consist of at least five, to be styled, "The Committee on Complaints and Offences," whose duty it shall be to take cognizance of all offences against the laws of Masonry, which may come to their knowledge, either from their own observation, ramor, or the information of a Companion or Companions; and said Committee, when any offence shall so come to their knowledge, shall, without delay, investigate the same; and if they think it of sufficient importance, shall report to the Chapter at a regular meeting, with the charges and specifications set forth in full.
- 2. The Secretary shall, immediately after such Report, issue a citation against the Companion or Companions so charged, citing him or them to appear before the Chapter at its regular Communication, then and there to answer the charge or charges preferred, as aforesaid, -which citation shall be served at least ten days before said meeting.
- 3. All complaint; by one Companion against another shall be laid before said Committee, whose duty it shall be to investigate the same, and report, as aforesaid; and no complpints shall be heard by the Chapter, until so reported upon.

- 4. That until the next Communication of this Grand Chapter, the Subordinate Chapters shall make such rules and regulations for the conducting of trials, the procuring of evidence, &c., as they may think best conducive to the ends of justice.
- 5. That the Grand Secretary shall provide each Subordinate Chapter with a copy of the foregoing, immediately after the adjournment of this Grand Body.

ON APPEALS. [Q.]

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi:

The Committee on Appeals beg leave to report, that no appeal having come before them, they infer that brotherly love prevails, and the moral and social virtues cement the Royal Arch Fraternity of Mississippi.

Respectfully submitted.

R. W. T. DANIEL, J. C. WARREN. WM. R. LACKEY, Committee.

ON RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS. [R.]

The Committee on Returns of Subordinate Chapters, beg leave to make the following additional Report, to wit: That they have examined the Returns made by Hillsboro' Chapter, No. 43, and find them too imperfect to justify any definite Report, there being no dues admitted, but reporting sixteen members and no "Exaltations."

They have also examined the Returns from Carthage Chapter, No. 46, and Patton Chapter, No. 52, which your Committee have the pleasure to report correct.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. A. Purdom,

E. H. HAND, O. M. OLIVER,

J. B. STAMPS, E. B. HARVEY,

D. S. Comfort,

Companion Lackey offered the following Resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter do now close, to meet again on the second Monday in January, 1856.

Whereupon, the Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi was closed in due and ample form, after the "Throne of Grace" had been addressed by our Most Rev. Companion Wm. Hyer.

WILLIAM R. CANNON, Grand High Priest.

R. W. T. Daniel, G. Secretary.

(By a resolution adopted at the last Grand Annual Convocation, the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer are required to make their respective Reports on or before the second day of each Grand Convocation.

In accordance with said resolution, the account in full, of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer will be presented, on the 1st day of the next Grand Convocation, examined and embodied in the printed Proceedings of that Grand Convocation.—Gr. Sec.]

PERMANENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF MISSISSIPPI,

In force, January, A. I. 2385.

- 1. That the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be published at length, as an Appendix to the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter. Adopted Jamaary, 1847. See Proceedings, page 6.
- 3. That the only persons carried to vote in his Grand Chapter, are the following Members and Officers, to wit: The Grand Officers elected at the preceding Convocation, to wit: Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Seribe, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Murshal, and the High Priests, Kings and Scribes of Subordinate Chapters, or their proxies, and also the Past Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings, Past Grand Scribes. [Adopted, 1847—page 11.
- 4. That no Companion can be elected to any office in this Grand Chapter, unless he be a member there f. [1847—page 12.]
- 5. That the jurisdictional limits of each Subordinate Chapter in this Stateshall be bounded by a line running eqi-distant between it and the nearest Chapter: and no Master Musca shall be allowed to receive the Chapter Degrees in any Chapter, other than that in whose jurisdictional limits he may reside, unless with the recommendation of his said Chapter. [1847—p. 14.]
- 6. That in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, it is irregular and improper for a Chapter in another State to confer Degrees upon Brethren residing in this State, without the pecial content of the Chapter within the jurisdiction of which such Brethren may reside. [1847—p. 14.]
- 7. That the Grand Sceretary be, and is hereby authorized to purchase any stationery that nay be required for the use of this Grand Chapter. [1847—page 17.]
- 8. That the Representatives of this Grand Chapter shall wear the appropriate jewels of their office while the Grand Chapter is in session. [1848—page 21.]
- 9. That, Temperance being one of the "Cardinal Virtaes" in the Science or Art of Free Masonry, it should be strictly enjoined upon all the members of the Craft; and it is hereby declared as the sense of the Grand Chapter, that the rules and principles of the Order impose it as a duty upon the officers of Chapters to caution, advise, remonstrate, reprimand, in the first instance, any Companion who shall become intemperate or immoral in his habits; and if necessary, upon due summons and examination, suspend or expel, by and with the Constitutional advice and consent of the Chapter under whose jurisdiction such Companion may be.

- 10. That Companions and the Craft generally, be urged to a more active and vigorous discharge of their duties, so that no reproach or dishonor may be brought upon our Ancient Institution.
- 11. That should a Companion Royal Arch Mason be expelled or suspended by a Blue Lodge, he is therefore expelled or suspended, as the case may be, from Royal Arch Masonry, as soon as authentic information is made of the fact; and should he be afterwards restored to the rights and privileges of a Master Mason, he is thereby restored to the rights and privileges of a Royal Arch Mason by virtue of his restoration to the character of a Master Mason in good standing.
- 12. That the issuance of a Charter, or the approval of the Proceedings of a Chapter U. D., and the directing of the issuance of a Charter to said Chapter, does authorize such Chapter to be represented in said Grand Chapter, and such representatives shall be members thereof before the installation. [1850—page 9.]
- 13. That hereafter, nothing shall be received into the Treasury of this Grand Chapter for dues of Subordinate Chapters, but gold and silver, or its equivalent.
- 14. That Chapters U. D. shall not be subject to the payment of any dues, other than those of Exaltation.
- 15. That it is the opinion of this Grand Chapter, that it is unconstitutional for any R. A. M., to give lectures, for pay unless duly authorized by the G. Chapter.
- 16. That the Grand Secretary be authorized and requested to prepay the postage on all documents forwarded by him, to the Subordinate Chapters, and that he be authorized to draw on the Treasury for the money to pay the same.
- 17. That as the sense of this Grand Chapter, when a Companion is suspended or expelled by a Subordinate Chapter, and takes an appeal from the sentence thereof, the term of his suspension or expulsion shall commence from the time of the rendition of the sentence in the Subordinate Chapter.
- 18. That the M. E. G. H. Priest, Grand Scoretary and Grand Treasurer, be appointed a Standing Committee on Foreign Correspondence.
- 19. That this Grand Chapter advise all Royal Arch Masons within its jurisdiction, not to receive the Council degrees—those of Royal and Select Master, except from a legally constituted Council.
- 20. That all the Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter, shall be entitled to the same compensation for attendance on this body, as the Representatives of Chapters, provided they are not the Representatives of the Subordinate Chapters.
- 21. That every Companion who may have been "exalted" in any Suborordinate Chapter in this State, shall be held to a member of the same, until he shall have regularly demitted, and that all Subordinate Chapters within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, be instructed to make their By-Laws conform to the above Resolution.

- 22. That in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, it is the duty of Subordinate Chapters, before recommending petitioners for a Dispensation to confer the Chapter Degrees, to be satisfied, thoroughly, that some one of the petitioners is well versed in the ritual and work appertaining to said degrees; and that such individual shall receive the work and lectures laid down by the G. G. Chapter of the United States, and no other work be received. [1853—pages 43, 44.]
- 23. That no Subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall coufer the Degrees upon an applicant within the jurisdiction of another Chapter, without the unanimous request of the Chapter within whose jurisdiction the candidate mao reside; and should any Chapter violate this regulation, said Chapter shall forfeit the fees of said candidate to the aggrieved Chapter, and incur such additional penalty as the Grand Chapter may inflict. [1853—page 51.]
- 24. That the application to a Subordinate Chapter for permission to take the Chapter Degrees in another Chapter, shall take the same course as a petition for the Degrees, as far as the lying over till the next regular meeting of the Chapter applied to. [1853—page 51.]
- 25. That it shall not be lawful for any Chapter U. D. to receive petitions and act upon them at one and the same meeting, except in cases of extreme emergency, which emergency shall be made manifest in their Minutes, under the penalty of withholding the Charter.
- 26. That no High Priest, King or Seribe, has the right to appoint a proxy to represent him in this Grand Chapter, where he or they are present in the Grand Chapter in person, and taking part in its deliberations. [1853—p. 15.]
- 27. That it is the opinion of this Grand Chapter, that in case of the death or absence of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, the Deputy Grand High Priest should fill his place, and assume the duties of Grand High Priest. [1853—page 55.]
- 28. That the Subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall not be authorized to confer the Degrees on an applicant for said Degrees, who has been elected, after the expiration of six months from his election, without a second ballot.
- 29. That all Delegates from Chapters U. D., sholl be paid mileage and per diem: Provided, That but one Delegate be entitled to receive such compensation; and that no Delegate shall receive out of the funds of the Grand Chapter, a larger sum than that paid in at the same meeting, as annual dues. [1853—page 62.]
- 30. That the root practicable land route shall be the criterion in estimating the distance from each Subordinate Chapter to the place at which the Grand Annual Cenvocation may be holden. [1854—page 39.]
- 32. That it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer to make their Reports on or before the second day of each Annual Communication of this Grand Chapter. [1854—page 32.]

- 33. That Drunkenness is unmasonic, and should not be tolerated by Royal Arch Masons. [1854—page 32.]
- 34. That the Grand Secretary be required to furnish two copies of blank Annual Returns to every Subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction, a sufficient time before the Grand Annual Convocations of this Grand Body. [1854—page 38.]
- 35. That no Companion shall be permitted to speak more than once on any subject, without the permission of the Grand Chapter. [1854—page 39.]
- 36. That the Grand Treasurer of this Grand Chapter be allowed two and one-half per cent on all monies he may disburse on account of this Grand Chapter. [1854—page 40.]
- 37. That the practice of employing Royal Arch Masons as substitutes for candidates in classes for "exaltation," is not approved by this Grand Chapter, which recommends to the Subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction to abstain from said practice. [1854—page 41.]
- 38. That in addition to the sum of two dollars per day and two dollars for every thirty miles' travel, the sum of one dollar per day and one dollar for every thirty miles' travel be allowed, and paid to the members of this Grand Chapter. [1854—page 49.]
- 39. That all Past and Grand Officers who may be in attendance on the Grand Chapters, be entitled to and receive the same per diem as the present Grand Officers: Provided, They are not Representatives of Subordinate Chapters at the same time. [1854—page 49.]
- 40. "No Royal Arch Mason within the jurisdiction of the G. G. Chapter, shall be permitted to confer any Degree in Masonry, not recognized as a Constitutional Degree; nor to establish any Society of Masons, not recognized as a Constitutional Body; and the first four Officers of the General Grand Chapter, or any three of them, shall, in all cases, have authority to decide all Constitutional questions under this section; nor shall any Royal Arch Mason be permitted to give Lectures, or instruction on the several Degrees of Masonry, conferred by, or under authority of the General Grand Chapter, unless he or they shall have been duly authorized by two of the State Grand Officers; which authority shall be given under their hands and the Seal of the State Grand Chapter, attested by their Grand Secretary."
- Resolved, In the construction of this Grand Chapter, the above Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter does not prohibit Royal Arch Masons, who are not Professional Lecturers, from "dispensing the true light of Masonry," by Lectures or otherwise, without special permission of the Grand Officers. [1853—page 121.]
- 41. No Dispensation or Charter for the institution of a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, shall be granted, except upon the petition of nine regular Royal Arch Masons; which petition shall be accompanied with a certificate from the Chapter nearest the place at which the new Chapter is intended to

be opened, vouching for the moral character and Masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending that a Dispensation or Charter be granted. [1855—page 121.]

- 42. "Whereas, The irreverent use of the name of Deity is highly unbecoming in Masons, and peculiarly so in Companions of this Most Sublime Degree, it shall be the duty of every member knowing a Companion to be habitually guilty of acts of wanton profanity, to report the same to his Chapter, at a regular Convocation; and any Royal Arch Mason so persisting in such acts as to be offensive to the Companions, shall be liable to be dealt with as for any other unnassonic conduct. [1854—page 121.]
- 43. That if any returns be sent up before the publication of the Proceedings of this Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary be directed to include them in the publication.
- 44. Unmasonic conduct at any stage of advancement, should constitute a barrier to a brother's receiving the Royal Arch Degree.

When difficulties occur between a Companion of the Chapters and an applicant who has been duly elected for the Chapter Degrees, the proceedings shall be stayed, and the High Priest shall immediately appoint a Committee of three Royal Arch Masons, whose duty it shall be, to investigate the matter, and if found of sufficient magnitude, (according to the usages of Masonry.) to exclude him from the benefits of the order, such objections shall be considered valid

If the objections of the companion are of such a character, that he cannot, with propriety, bring them before the Chapter, then, his averment to be taken as just ground, in the premises; and on his averment before the Chapter, that he has, (in his opinion.) objections sufficient to exclude the candidate, the case shall then be referred to said Committee, whose report shall be final.

- 45. That the Grand Chapter pay the necessary expenses of the legal Representatives who may attend the Convocations of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. [1853—page 123.]
- 46. That all the Subordinate Chapters of the State be required to change their By-Laws, so as to hold their Annual Election of Officers at the stated meeting preceeding the Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, and that the Returns of Subordinate Chapters shall commence from the 27th day of December, of each year.
- 47. Subordinate Chapters shall contribute to this Grand Chapter, two dollars for each "Exaltation," and fifty cents per amum for each member, an account and return of which, together with the payment shall be made at each Grand Annual Convocation.
- 48. The fee for a Dispensation or Charter for a Subordinate Chapter, is, as prescribed by the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, ninety dollars, and Grand Secretary's fee, ten dollars.
- 49. That, as one of the permanent regulations of this Grand Chapter, when a Royal Arch Mason stands charged, in a court of justice in this State,

with an offence against the criminal or penal laws, no proceedings touching said offence, shall be instituted against such Companion so charged, until after his case shall have been disposed of by said court; but, in the meantime, the Chapter under whose jurisdiction the Companion resides, may temporarily suspend him from Royal Arch Masonic intercourse and privileges until final trial at law; but should such Chapter refuse so to suspend him, he remains entitled to all such Masonic right.

- 50. That the Lectures delivered by our Grand Lecturer, Companion W. R. Lackey, are fully approved, and are hereby adopted by the Grand Chapter.
- 51. That for the proper understanding and regulation of Subordinate Chapters, a uniform scale of charges for the reception of the Chapter Degrees be established, and that not less than forty dollars be the regular charge for the same.
- 52. That the Installation of the Officers of the Grand Chapter take place at the close of each session, and that the present Grand Officers hold over until that time. [1855—page 21.]
- 53. That Duelling is unmasonic, and should not be tolerated among Royal Arch Masons. [1855—page 36.]
- 54. That the M. E. Grand High Priest grant no Dispensations for the institution of new Chapters, the petitioners for which have not previously dimitted from the Chapter or Chapters to which they had belonged, and forwarded their dimits with their petitions. [1855—page 37.]
- 55. There shall be appointed by the Grand Council of each and every Subordinate Chapter in this State, a Standing Committee, to consist of at least five, to be styled "The Committee on Complaints and Offenses," whose duty it shall be to take cognizance of all offenses against the laws of Masonry which may come to their knowledge, either from their own observation, rumor, or the information of a Companion or Companions; and said Committee, when any offense shall so come to their knowledge, shall, without delay, investigate the same; and if they think it of sufficient importance, shall report to the Chapter, at a regular meeting, with the charges and specifications set forth in full.
- 2. The Secretary shall, immediately after such report, issue citation against the Companion or Companions so charged, citing him or them to appear before the Chapter, at its regular Communication, then and there to answer the charge or charges preferred as aforesaid, which citation shall be served at least ten days before said meeting.
- 3. All complaints of one Companion against another, shall be laid before said Committee, whose duty it shall be to investigate the same, and report as aforesaid; and no complaints shall be heard by the Chapter, until so reported. [1855—page 39.]

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

General Grand Chapter of Royal Erch Masons,

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

As Amended at the Trienmial meeting, begun and held in the city of Lexington, in the State of Kentucky, on Tuesday, September 13th, 1853, and of the Order, 25%.

ARTICLE 1.

OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

Section 1. There shall be a General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, which shall be holden triennially, on the second Tu selay in September, at such time and place as shall from time to time be designated for that purpose, and at which time the General Grand Officers be elected by ballot, and installed, except the General Grand Chaplain, who shall be appointed by the General High Priest at the commencement of each Convocation of the General Grand Chapter.

The General Cound Chapter at any regular meeting, may change the fine for the next succeeding meeting; and if, in the opinion of the General Grand High Priest, or, in case of his death, or absence, of the General Grand Officer, there shall be danger to life or health, from sickness or other local cause, by any meeting being held at the time appointed, he may change the time of the particular meeting to some subsequent time. And, in the event of such change being made, he shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, who shall forthwith notify the other officers and members in such manner as he may deem best calculated to effect the desired object.

- SEC. 2. The General Grand Chapter shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all State Grand Chapters, and over Chapters in those States, Districts, or Territories which reagainst this jurisdiction, and when there is no Grand Chapter regularly established, agreeably to the provisions of this Constitution; and shall have authority to suspend the proceedings of such State Grand Chapters, and such Chapters in States where there is no G. Chapter, as may knowingly violate any of the provisions of this Constitution; to settle all difficulties which may arise, and to give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to their peace, and to the advancement of the great cause of benevolence and virtue.
- SEC. 3. The Officers of the General Grand Chapter shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, Deputy General High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Secretary, G. Grand Treasurer, General Grand Chaplain, G. G. C. H., and G. G. R. Arch Captain, these,

together with the first four officers of every State G. Chapter under this jurisdiction, or the proxies of the first four G. Grand Officers, and of the first four Officers of each State Grand Chapter aforesaid, shall compose the G. G. Chapter: Provided, That any Chapter under this jurisdiction, in any State, District, or Territory, where there is no Grand Chapter, duly established, shall have a right to appear by its first three Officers, or any one of them: which officers shall collectively have one vote.

Sec. 4. On all questions to be decided by the General Grand Chapter, each State Grand Chapter shall be entitled to four votes by its representative or representatives.

The General Grand Officers when present, shall each have one vote. And no General Grand Officer shall be allowed to take a seat in the General Grand Chapter, as the representative of any State Grand Chapter—nor shall any member of the General Grand Chapter be permitted to vote as proxy, while the person giving the proxy is present—nor shall any person be admitted into the General Grand Chapter as the representative of more than one State G. Chapter at one and the same time.

- Sec. 5. The General Grand High Priest and Deputy General Grand High Priest, shall have authority to call a special meeting of the General Grand Chapter, whenever they may consider it expedient or necessary; and it shall be their duty to do so, when properly requested by a majority of the State Grand Chapters, of which four months' notice shall be given of the time and place of meeting.
- Sec. 6. The General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispensations, for a limited length of time, for New Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of the appendant Orders, in any State, County, Republic, or Territory, in which there is not a Grand Chapter, regularly established, when, in their opinion, the good of the craft, may require the same; which term of time shall in no case extend beyond the time of the next Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, County, Republic, or Territory, where there is a Chapter, within a reasonable distance, under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located; and in all cases of such Dispensation, the Officer who may grant the same, shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, and make report of the same at the next Triennial Meeting of this General Grand Chapter, when the General Grand Chapter may grant the said Chapter a Charter.
- SEC. 7. The fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter, with Subordinate Degrees, shall be ninety dollars and no more; and no credit shall be given for Dispensations or Charters, or for conferring the Degrees, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction. And every Chapter holden by

Dispensation or C arter under this jurisdiction, shall pay into the Treasury of the General Grand Chapter, the sum of two dollars for each Companion therein exalted, until such time as a Grand Chapter shall be regularly established in the State, Country, Republic, or Territory in which such Subordinate Chapter is located. The Secretary shall be paid by the potitioners ten dollars for his services in furnishing the Charter.

The fees in the several States for conferring the several Degrees of Mark Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, shall not be less than twenty dollars.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, to improve and perfect themselves in the Sublime Art, and work of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters, and Royal Arch Masons to make themselves Masters of the several Masonic Lectures, and Ancient Charges, to consult with each other, and with the Grand, and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes of the Several State Grand Chapters aforesaid, for the purpose of adopting measures suitable and proper for diffusing a knowledge of the said Lectures and Charges. And the better to accomplish this laudable object, the aforesaid Officers are hereby severally authorized and empowered to visit and preside in any Chapter of Toyal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Most Excellent Master, Mark, and Past Master Masons throughout the said States, and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Fraternity may require, always adhering to the Ancient Landmarks of the Order.

SEC. 9. The only Degrees recognized by this General Grand Chapter, to be conferred in Chapters under its jurisdiction, are Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason. And no Royal Arch Mason, who shall have regularly received said Degrees, shall be excluded from the rights of such, by reason of his not being in possession of any other, so called, Degrees.

SEC. 10. In all cases of the absence of an Officer from any body of Masons, institute lor holden by virtue of this Constitution, the Officer next in rank shall occupy his place; unless through courtesy or for other reasons, he should decline in favor of a Past High Priest.

SEC. 11. In every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction, all questions, (except admission of members or candidates, which shall require a unanimous ballot,) shall be considered and determined in such way and manner, as such Chapters and Lodges may, all circumstances considered, find most conductive to their harmony and permanent prosperity: *Provided*, They do not in any case interfere with, or infringe on the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

Sec. 12. The General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter shall have and keep a seal, which shall be affixed to all his communications.

Sec. 13. Should any casualty, at any time hereafter, prevent the triennial election of Officers, the several Officers shall retain their respective offices until successors are duly elected and qualified.

ARTICLE II.

OF THE STATE GRAND CHAPTERS.

- Section 1. The State Grand Chapters shall severally consist of a Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Captain Host; and likewise of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the several Chapters over which they shall respectively preside, and of the Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes, of the said Grand Chapters; and the said Grand Chapters shall have full power and authority to elect such other officers, and to establish such rules and regulations, as they shall from time to time, consider necessary and proper: Provided, such regulations do not in any way interfere with the provisions of this Constitution.
- SEC. 2. That the Grand Chapters shall severally be holden once in every year, and oftener if they may consider it expedient, or necessary, at such time and place as they shall respectively direct; and at their annual meetings, the constitutional officers shall be elected, or appointed in such manner as shall be provided for by their rules and regulations, and installed into their respective offices; and the Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priest, respectively, for the time being, may call special meetings, to be holden at such times and places as they may think proper.
- SEC. 3. The several State Grand Chapters shall have the sole government and superintendence of the several Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of Mest Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, within their respective jurisdictions, to assign their limits, and to settle the controversies that may happen between them; and shall have power, under their respective seals and signs manual of their respective Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes, attested by their respective Grand Secretaries, to constitute new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, within their respective jurisdictions; but their jurisdictions shall in no case be construed to extend beyond the limits of the State, except by consent of the General Grand Chapter.
- SEC. 4. The Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests severally, shall have the power and authority, whenever they shall deem it expedient, during the recess of the Grand Chapter of which they are officers, to grant letters of Dispensation under their respective hands and private seals, to a competent number of petitioners, possessing the qualifications required by the 7th section of the second Article of this Constitution, empowering them to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for a certain term of time: Provided, That the said term of time shall not extend beyond the next meeting of the Grand Chapter of the State, in which such Dispensations shall be granted; And provided further, That the same fees are required by this Constitution for Charters, shall be first deposited in the hands of the Grand Secretary. And in all cases of such Dispensation, the officers who may grant the same, shall make report thereof at the next stated meeting of the Grand Chapter of his jurisdiction, when the said Grand Chapter may either continue or recall the said Dispensation, or may grant the petitioners a Charter of Constitution.—

And in case such Charter shall be granted, the fees first deposited shall be credited in payment of the same; but if a Charter should not be granted, nor the Dispensation continued, the said fees shall be refunded to the petitioners, excepting only such part thereof as shall have been actually expended by means of their application.

SEC. 5. No Dispensation or Charter shall be granted for instituting Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, or Mark Masters, independent of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

SEC. 6. The Grand Chapters shall have power, severally, to require from the several Chapters under their respective jurisdictions, such reasonable proportion of sums received by them for the exaltation or advancement of candidates, and such certain annual sums from their respective members, as by their ordinances or regulations shall be appointed; all of which said sums or dues shall be made good and paid annually by the said Chapters, respectively, over to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter under which they hold their authority, on or before the first day of the respective annual meetings of the several Grand Chapters.

SEC. 7. No Dispensation or Chapter for the institution of a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons shall be granted, except upon the petition of nine regular Royal Arch Masons; which petition shall be accompanied with a certificate from the Chapter nearest to the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, youching for the moral character and Masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending that a Dispensation or Charter be granted them.

SEC. 8. The Grand Secretaries of the State Grand Chapters shall, severally, make an annual communication to each other, and also to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, containing a list of Grand Officers, and all such other matters as may be deemed necessary for the mutual benefit and information of said Grand Chapters. And the said Grand Secretaries shall also regularly transmit to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, a copy of all their By-Laws and Regulations; and also a copy of their proceedings, annually, to each of the officers of the General Grand Chapter; and the State Grand Chapters shall see that their Secretaries faithfully and punctually perform this duty.

SEC. 9. Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated in any State, Country, or Republic, or Territory, by virtue of or authority derived from this Constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established, so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate: Provided, That the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter be first obtained. And said Grand Chapters, by their regular officers, shall in some suitable place, elect their officers, and make such rules and regulations for their government as may be necessary—not inconsistent with the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

SEC. 10. No person shall be permitted to take a seat in any State Grand Chapter, as the representative of more than one Chapter, nor unless he is a member of a Subordinate Chapter under that jurisdiction.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

- Section 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons throughout this jurisdiction shall have a Dispensation, as is provided in Section 6 of Article I, or Section 4 of Article II, of this Constitution, or Charter from the General Grand Chapter, or from some Grand Chapter under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Chapter, or any member of it, and any Chapter or assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened, or holden, without such Charter, or any or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter. But nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any Chapter which was established before the adoption of the Grand Royal Arch Constitution, at Hartford, on the 27th day of January, A. D. 1798.
- SEC. 2. Whenever a Charter is issued for instituting a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, with a power in said Charter to open and hold Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, the High Priest, King, and Scribe, for the time being, of such Chapter, shall be the Master and Wardens in said Lodges, according to seniority.
- Sec. 3. It is incumbent on the H. Priest of every Chapter, as appertaining to his office, duty and dignity, to see that the By-Laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and the Regulations of the Grand Chapter, be duly observed; that all his subordinate officers perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their Companions; that true and exact records be kept of all the proceedings of the Chapter, by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts of all moneys belonging to the Chapter; that regular returns be made by the Secretary annually to the Grand Chapter, of the admission of all candidates or members, and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be regularly and punctually paid. The Charter of his Chapter is committed to his special care and charge. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence which, in his judgment, may require their meeting, and he is to fill the Chair when present. It is likewise his duty, together with his King and Scribe, to attend the regular and special meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy.
- SEC. 4. No person, having been a member of a Chapter, shall be admitted a member of any other Chapter under this jurisdiction, until he shall have produced a certificate from a Chapter to which he last belonged, that he was in regular standing, and as such, at his own request is dismissed and recommended.
- SEC. 5. That any worthy companion, from without the jurisdiction of the United States, who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, that each and every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter

have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, on such Companions (who have not heretefore received them) to the end that they may be hereby healed, and thereby becon e regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge.

SEC. 6. That the Subordinate Chapter so conferring said Degrees, shall be exempt from paying any dues therefor.

SEC. 7. It shall not be deemed regular for any Chapter to confer the Degrees of the Chapter upon any person whose fixed place of abode is within any other State, in which there is a Chapter regularly established, except by consent of the Chapter nearest the place of residence of said applicant.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- SECTION 1. Whenever it shall be inconvenient for the General Grand Officers, or the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, to attend in person, to constitute a new Chapter, and install the officers, they shall severally, have power and authority to appoint some worthy High Priest, or Past High Priest, to perform the necessary ceremonics.
- SEC. 2. The officers of every Chapter under this jurisdiction, before they enter upon the exercise of their respective offices, and also the members of all such Chapters, and every candidate upon his admission into the same, shall take the following obligation, viz: I, A. B., do promise and swear, that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America.
- SEC. 3. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, unless such alteration or amendment be proposed in writing at one regular meeting of the General Grand Chapter, published among the minutes of the proceedings, and at the next regular meeting receive the approval of two-thirds of the members present.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the Seal of the Gene-RAL GRAND CHAPTER to be hereunto affixed.

Dated at the City of Washington, this 27th day of September, 1853, and the year of the Order 2383.

B. B. FRENCH, General Grand Secretary.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

GRAND CHAPTER OF MISSISSIPPI,

As amended and adopted, January, A. D. 1853, A. I., 2383.

ARTICLE I.

This Grand Chapter is Subordinate to the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

ARTICLE II.

Officers, Members, Qualifications, Duty and Compensation.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The Officers of this Grand Chapter shall be those named in the first Section of the second Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, together with a Grand Orator and also, for work in the Ancient Mysteries, a Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, three Grand Masters of Veils, a Grand Captain of the Host, and Grand Sentinel.

MEMBERS.

Sec. 2. The members of this Grand Chapter shall only be those prescribed in the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and none others shall be permitted to vote: Provided, That when any Past Grand Officer shall cease to be a member of a Subordinate Chapter, his membership in this Grand Chapter shall cease.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS.

Sec. 3. All the Grand Officers shall be selected from the members, for the time being, of the Grand Chaptar, except the Grand Chaplain, Grand Lecturer, and Grand Sentinel, who may be elected from the members of the Subordinate Chapters.

DUTY OF GRAND LECTURER.

SEC. 4. The Grand Chapter may elect a Grand Lecturer, whose duty it shall be, when called upon by the Grand Council, to give Lectures and instructions in Masonry, at each Convocation of the Grand Chapter; and when thereto called by the Subordinate Chapters, he shall visit them, and give the like lectures and instructions.

COMPENSATION TO GRAND LECTURER.

SEC. 5. The expenses of the Grand Lecturer, while in attendance on the Grand Chapter, shall be paid by the Grand Chapter, and he shall receive no other compensation than such as the Subordinate Chapters may think proper to give him.

COMPENSATION TO GRAND SECRETARY.

SEC. 6. The Grand Secretary shall receive for preparing a Dispensation or Charter, five dellars, and in addition thereto, twenty-five cents for each hundred words for recording, and for copies of proceedings, documents, &c., required by the business of the Grand Chapter, and five dollars a day during the session of the Grand Chapter, for his services in keeping the minutes, to be paid out of the Grand Treasury. For copies required by others than the Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary shall receive the same fee per hundred words, and one dollar for his certificate, and affixing the seal of the Grand Chapter, to be paid by the parties applying for the service.

COMPENSATION TO GRAND SENTINEL.

Sec. 7. The Grand Sentinel shall be allowed such compensation as the Chapter may deem just and reasonable.

ARTICLE III.

MEETING AND QUORUM.

The annual meeting of this Grand Chapter shall be held at the seat of Government in this State, on the 2d Monday of January, of each year; and a quorum shall consist of the representatives or proxies of at least three Chapters, and if on the day of meeting, there be not a quorum present, any one of the first four grand Officers may adjourn the Grand Chapter from day to day, until four o'clock of the fourth day following.

ARTICLE IV.

Election of Officers, Voting and Proxies.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. There shall be an election of Officers at each annual meeting of this Grand Chapter; and should there be a failure of said annual meeting, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, or Deputy Grand High Priest, may call a special meeting for such election; and in default of such special meeting, the Officers in office shall continue to serve until their successors are duly elected and installed.

VOTING.

SEC. 2. On all questions, each Chapter present shall have three votes, and each member of the Grand Chapter present, other than delegates or proxies of Subordinate Chapters, one vote. The vote at an election shall be by written ballot, and when the yeas and nays are taken on any question, the presiding officer shall vote first; should there be an equal division, the proposition shall be lost; but in case where the yeas and nays are not taken, the presiding Officers will have the easting vote; and the representatives of Subordinate Chapters who have not paid their dues, shall not be allowed to vote.

PROXIES.

SEC. 3. Whenever the three first Officers of a Subordinate Chapter cannot attend the Annual Meeting of this Grand Chapter, or fail, or decline to adopt

proxies or a proxy, to represent them or their Chapter, it shall be competent for said Chapter to elect or appoint a delegate or a proxy. No member of this Grand Chapter, as such, has a right to constitute a proxy; but, that right is exclusively vested in the first three Officers of each Subordinate Chapter, or in the Chapter itself. A prexy must be a member of some Chapter in this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE V.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEES.

SECTION. 1. Subordinate Chapters shall contribute to this Grand Chapter two dollars for each exaltation, and fifty cents per annum for every member, an account and return of which, and payment, shall be made at each annual Convocation.

FEES.

SEC. 2. The fee for a Dispensation and Charter for a Subordinate Chapter, is, as prescribed by the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, ninety dollars.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. At and after the meeting of this Grand Chapter, the Representatives of Subordinate Chapters shall be paid out of the funds of this Grand Chapter, three dollars for every thirty miles going to and returning from the Grand Chapter, and three dollars a day for each day's attendance on the same: Provided, That not more than one delegate from any Chapter be entitled to receive such compensation and that no representative shall receive out of the funds of the Grand Chapter a larger sum than that paid in at the same Communication by his Chapter, on account of the annual dues of said year: Provided, also, That a proxy of a distant Chapter, residing at the seat of government, shall receive no Compensation.

ARTICLE VII.

AMENDMENTS.

All amendments to the Constitution of this Grand Chapter shall be proposed and published at least one annual Convocation before the same shall be acted upon, and the Constitution shall not be altered or amended without the approbation of two-thlrds of the members present.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Mississippi.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the Seal of the Grand Chapter to be hereunto affixed.

Dated at the city of Jackson, this 15th day of January, 1856.

R. W. T. DANIEL, Grand Secretary.

LIST OF STATE GRAND CHAPTERS

Under the Jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, with the Address of each Grand Secretary.

Maine	. Allen Haines	. Portland.
	. Hosea Fessenden	
Vermont	. L. B. Englesbee	. Burlington.
	. Thomas Waterman	
	. W. G. Barker	
Connecticut	. E. Storer	New Haven.
New York	. John O. Cole	. Albany.
	. Joseph Robinson	
Ohio	. John D. Caldwell	. Cincinnati.
Kentucky	. Philip Swigert	Frankfort.
Virginia	.John Dove	. Richmond.
North Carolina	.H. P. Russell	. Wilmington.
South Carolina	. F. C. Barton	. Charleston.
Georgia	. William K. Kitchen	. Augusta.
Alabama	. Amand P. Pfister	. Montgomery.
Tennessee	.John S. Dashiell	Nashville.
Indiana	. E. F. King	. Indianapolis.
Mississippi	. R. W. T. Daniel	. Vicksburg.
Missouri	.J. D. Taylor	St. Louis.
Florida	.John B. Taylor	. Tallahassee.
Michigan:	. R. S. Cheeney	Jackson.
Louisiana	.Samuel L. Isett	Baton Rouge.
Wisconsin	. William R. Smith	Mineral Point.
Arkansas'	. L. E. Barber	. Little Rock.
California	.T. A. Thomas	Sacramento.